NACBS/British Council Canadian Undergraduate Essay Contest in British Studies

Annual Report

Deborah Gorham, Chair October 1, 2004

I divide this report into three parts: (a) Funding from the British Council; (b) the Structure and Membership of the Committee; (c) this year's contest and results

A: Funding

While I am pleased to announce that Mr. Peter Chenery, Head of the British Council, Canada, has graciously agreed to continue providing the $1000 prize money through 2005-2006, we are disappointed to tell you that, as of now, the British Council has not succeeded in finding an alternative sponsorship in the private sector. We have made some suggestions to Mr. Chenery about possible funders, and we intend during the coming year to explore them with him.

NACBS continues to underwrite the overhead costs of postage and printing. This year, it is my institution, Carleton University, that needs to be reimbursed. Regina Aulinskas, the Departmental Administrator of the Department of History, has provided a hard copy invoice, which I will forward by mail to Philip Harding. (I cc her in this email version for verification.) The total amount due is $172.82 CDN. Cheque should be made out to Carleton University, and sent to Ms. Aulinskas, Department of History, 400 Paterson Hall, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1S 5B6.

B. Membership and Structure of the Committee: For information about the restructuring of the Committee, I refer you to Robert Tittler's Report of 12 September 2003. This year the Adjudication Committee members were Professor Lynn Wells, of the Department of English, University of Regina, Professor James Alsop, History, McMaster University, and myself. In accordance with the guidelines established last year, I will now step down from the committee. Prof. Wells will become Chair. I am pleased to report that Professor Sandra den Otter, of the Department of History at Queen's University, a well respected scholar whose interests include the intellectual, cultural, gender and imperial history of late 18th and 19th c Britain, has agreed to serve in my place. These arrangements will require ratification.

C: The Contest and Results for 2002-3

This year's total of 36 essays submitted was larger than last year's total of 27. Again the essays came from a wide range of Canadian institutions, and covered a wide range of subjects. Most of the essays submitted were from students in History or English.

The winners, in alphabetical order (they each receive a prize of $100CDN) are as follows:

Collins, David, "Reading Shelley's Tombstone: Death and Failure in PB Shelley's 'Adonais,' *Hellas* and 'The Triumph of Life"": Submitted by Submitted by Prof. Sarah Maier, Department of English, UNB, St. John, NB, E2L 4L5

Greaves, Dora, "Earnest's Two Personalities: Homoeroticism Versus Heterosexisms, and Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest": Submitted by Prof. Lisa Surridge, Department of English, U. Victoria, Victoria, BC, V8W 3W1

Heinrich, Rachel, "Critical Masculinities in *Lady Audley's Secret*": Submitted by Prof Mary Elizabeth Leighton, English, U. Victoria, Victoria, BC, V8W 3W1

Miller, Tenyia, "The Portrayal of Illness in Early Modern England: A Comparison of the Correspondence, Diaries and Autobiographic Writings of Clergymen, Laymen, and Laywomen": Submitted by Prof. J.D. Alsop, History, McMaster U., Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L9

Muir, Angela, "Parochial Customs, Fundraising and the English Reformation: the decline of church ales in sixteenth-century England": Submitted by Prof. John Craig, Department of History, Simon Fraser U., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

Murphy, Tara, "the Duty of Ghosts: Passion, Language, Paradox and Mystery in T.S. Eliot's 'Ash Wednesday'": Submitted by Prof Tom Grieve, English, Simon Fraser Univ, Burnaby BC, V5A 1S6

Newfield, Tim, "Death and Weather Anomalies: Smallpox in Eighteenth-Century England": Submitted by Prof. Jeanette Neeson, Department of History, York University, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3

Pongray, Derek, "Navies and Neutrality: The Findings of the Haldane Mission": Submitted by Prof. Y. Aleksandra Bennett, History, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6

Valley, Myra, "Newsworthy or Not? Reporting on Health Care Issues in Early Modern England": Submitted by Prof. J.D. Alsop, History, McMaster U., Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L9

Young, Kate, "Both, or Neither? Sex, Gender and the Hermaphrodite in Early Modern England": Submitted by Prof. J.D. Alsop, History, McMaster U., Hamilton, ON, L8S 4L9